GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:137
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2003
SPORTING TIES WITH PAKISTAN
MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT;RAM JEEVAN SINGH;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiative for the resumption of sporting ties with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Pakistan Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS(SHRI VIJAY GOEL)

(a) to (c): As part of Prime Minister`s initiative of 18 April 2003, and the process of promoting people to people contacts and cultural exchange with Pakistan, the Government of India, as a first step, permitted participation in multilateral sporting events in each other`s country. In this framework, the Government recently has cleared the BCCI proposal for cricket matches between `Academy` teams (of India-Pakistan-Sri Lanka) in Sri Lanka, quadrangular series of one day matches amongst under-19` teams (of India-Pakistan-Sri Lanka-Bangladesh) in Pakistan; a triangular series of one day matches amongst the `A` teams (of India-Pakistan-Sri Lanka) in India. Government also approved Pakistan`s participation in the Afro-Asian Games that were held in Hyderabad in October-November 2003.

Subsequently, on 22nd October 2003, Government announced its willingness to resume bilateral sporting encounters between the two countries, which included cricket. Pakistan has agreed to the Indian proposal in this regard.